



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE REGULAR
MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-1661)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Eleanor R. Montaña, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio,
Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D.,
Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and Commissioner
Susan Burton

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Call to Order. (13-1414)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a
moment of silence.**

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the March 20, 2013 Minutes. (13-1415)

**On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by
Commissioner Barbara Bigby and unanimously carried, the minutes of
March 20, 2013 were approved.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Chairperson's Report on various items for March 27, 2013. (13-1426)

**Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles with the
Commissioners:**

Daily Breeze:

- Sheriff sounds more like a leader now (March 22, 2013)
- Failing our kids (March 24, 2013)

Los Angeles Times:

- A safer foster system (March 24, 2013)
- BACA TOLD AIDE TO RETIRE (March 25, 2013)
- Inmates complain about food (March 26, 2013)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Treasurer's Report for March 27, 2013. (13-1432)

Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance as of March 20, 2013 of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$955.96.

4. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports for March 27, 2013. (13-1454)

Ms. Bolaji Famuyiwa, Staff, Commission Services, provided a status report on the 2013 SBC Scholarship Awards Program. Following a brief discussion on the menu selection for the Scholarship Presentation Breakfast, the Commission decided to go with the breakfast buffet from the City Fare Breakfast Menu. The Commission also advised staff that each scholarship recipient will be afforded the privilege to invite two family members to the Scholarship Presentation Breakfast.

5. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on March 27, 2013. (13-1455)

There were no reports given.

6. Commissioners Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from March 21, 2013 to March 26, 2013. (13-1457)

Chairperson Montano, Vice Chairperson Bacio, and Commissioners Andrews, Grills and Bigby visited the Twin Towers Correctional Facility on March 21, 2013. Chairperson Montano expressed that she appreciated that the new Assistant Sheriff Terri McDonald came down to meet and greet the Commissioners during their tour and inspection of the facility. Chairperson Montano then inquired from the other Commissioners their overall thought of the visit.

Commissioner Bigby reported that she was very disappointed at the way the inspection was guided. Her concern was that the Commissioners didn't have the opportunity to conduct a thorough inspection of the facility because they were overwhelmed with the many escorts who made sure that the Commissioners didn't visit and/or inspect the areas that may have presented some potential concerns. Rather, the Commissioners were guided to the areas that the escorts knew will be pleasing to see.

Commissioner Andrews added that the holding cells were extremely dirty with trash all over the place. When the Commissioners inquired why the cells were so dirty and how often they were cleaned, they were advised that the holding cells didn't have trash cans because the cans could be used as weapons. Commissioner Bigby added that the more she inquired about the regularity and frequency of the cleaning of the cells, the more the escorts became dismissive of the subject matter.

Commissioner Andrews continued that while it felt like a good idea to have the male inmates separated from each other (where one part is not able to see the other part) he wasn't too impressed with the control unit. The control unit didn't seem to have the same hands on control that the Men's Central Jail control unit had.

Commissioner Grills also reported that she was concerned with the double bunks in the day room in the Trustee's area. There were six sets of bunk beds that were overcrowded. Additionally, she inspected the programming that was there for the women; it was an intense and fully engaged program. However, she had an issue with the fact that only 90 women were getting the programming out of the 400 women. Commissioner Grills recommended that the Commission may want to take a look at how the women are selected for the program in the future.

Commissioner Grills also reported that upon hearing a couple of mention about the town hall meetings held in the lock-up facilities, she inquired from her escort if it was possible to sit-in on one of the town hall meetings and was told that she could. She expressed her interest to drop-in on one of the meetings to hear first-hand from the inmates what their concerns are. Commissioner Bigby questioned if the town hall meetings were open to the general public and was told that they are not.

After a brief discussion, the Commission requested staff to contact the Sheriff's Department and advise them that the Commission would like the Sheriff to bring to the next SBC Business meeting, the schedule of the town hall meetings for all the County lock-ups.

Commissioner Bigby concluded that she was impressed with the urgent care at the twin tower.

- **Chairperson Montaño and Commissioner Andrews visited Fleming & Barnes Dimondale Adolescent #1, Page, 17, #4, on March 22, 2013.
The home was very clean and well organized.**
- **Chairperson Montaño and Commissioner Andrews visited Olive Crest Treatment Center, Page, 28, #4, on March 26, 2013.
This was the best facility and the organization was excellent. Both Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Andrews recommended that the escort, Mekanani Washbon, should receive a recognition and commendation from the Board of Supervisors. After a brief discussion, the Commission directed staff to prepare a draft memo to the Board of Supervisors recommending Ms. Washbon for a Commendation, and also recommending that her skills be utilized at the other group home facilities.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited the San Dimas Sheriff Station on March 26, 2013.
This was a return visit; there were 6 sets of turn-out gear that were without boots.**
- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Heritage Group Home, Page 21, #1, on March 26, 2013.**

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes were visited, but found to be unsatisfactory and issued a Corrective Action Form:

- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited the visited Children Are Our Future (Terry House), Page, 6, #4, on March 22, 2013. This was their 30 days follow up visit and the group home remain non-compliant in the following areas:**
 - **The carpet needs to be replaced throughout the house**
 - **The entire interior needs to be painted**
 - **The washer/dryer and the floor in laundry room need to be replaced**
 - **A new and longer bed needs to be purchased for the tall heavy youth in bedroom #2.**

The Commissioners will return in 30 days for a follow-up inspection. Staff was directed to send a copy of the issued Corrective Action Form to the Probation Department.

- **Commissioners Burton and Grills visited Community Youth Sports and Arts Foundation, Page 8, #4 on March 26, 2013 and the overall facility was sparse & dingy. The following need corrective actions:**
 - **The living room sofa/love seat needs replacing**
 - **There needs to be internet access on the computer to aid the youth in doing research for their study**
 - **The second bathtub needs replacing or resurfacing**
 - **The stove front left burner flame is too high**
 - **The tennis balls on the bed post could be a hazard**
 - **There is no assigned vehicle to transport youth**

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

7. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-1461)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

8. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-1462)

There no one from the public requested to address the Commission.

Adjournment

9. Adjournment for the meeting of March 27, 2013. (13-1463)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of March 27, 2013 at 11:35 a.m.